

What Did You Learn?

By completing this project, I learned to further appreciate my Japanese culture, but also the hardworking nature of the Japanese population. I studied Tsukiji Outer Market to gain a deeper understanding about why this market is especially iconic to Japan, and it made me realize that the market is a tourist attraction for me, but a way of life for the workers. I also learned that you can never fully understand one's culture until you have experienced it from his or her perspective.



Why Did You Choose This Project?

I chose this project because I am Japanese-American, but I have never had the opportunity to visit Japan before. I chose this project to learn more about my identity and to learn more about how American culture and Japanese culture have influenced each other over the years.

Japanese Popular Culture

This was a faculty-led trip that explored the relationship between popular and traditional culture in Japan. This program uses Japanese popular culture to analyze its impact on nationalism, cosmopolitanism, appropriation and authenticity, and what it means to be human in a world of commodities. We mainly stayed within the Tokyo area, but we also stayed at University of Tsukuba to help build a future relationship between the two universities.



How Was This Experience Transformational?

This experience was transformational because I was able to travel to Japan and learn more about Japanese culture. I am part of the Japanese Student Organization, and my dad is Japanese-American, so I grew up with a lot of exposure to Japanese culture. But, it was my first time travelling overseas, and it was lifechanging to see how different American culture is from Japanese culture. I hope to share what I've learned with both my family and the Ohio State community.



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STEP Project Category: Study Abroad

STEP Faculty Member: Michael Kellner

Major: Arts Management

Favorite Part of Your Experience

My favorite part of my experience was travelling to Tsukiji Outer Fish Market alone. I navigated the bus and train system successfully, and experienced rush hour on the train which was not very enjoyable. At the market, it was amazing to see the different vendors, and I was able to learn more about the importance of the fish market and how it has changed due to the upcoming Tokyo 2020 Olympics. It was exciting to wander around the market without an agenda and find hidden shops throughout. I was also able to eat as much fresh seafood as I wanted.



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Second-year Transformational
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